

Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Project

COMMUNITY INFORMATION PROGRAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND TESTING PROGRAM

SUMMER, 1981

Community Relations

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Foothills Pipe Lines (South Yukon) Ltd.

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1.0 Introduction

This summer (1981) Foothills Pipe Lines (South Yukon) Ltd. is proceeding with the Archaeological Survey begun in late summer and early fall of 1980, covering the entire alignment subsequent to legal survey of the route. Unfortunately, the early onset of bad weather prevented the completion of last year's work, and two major segments and one short segment were not examined. This year's work will complete that portion of the alignment survey omitted from the 1980 programme. Approximately 282.5 kilometers will be covered. Subsequent work will then commence on the Archaeological Testing portion of the program, using information derived from the completed alignment survey.

Start up dates for the program are:

- a) Archaeological Survey - May and June, 1981
- b) Archaeological Testing - July, August, September and October, 1981

2.0 Program Description

2.1 Archaeological Survey

The primary objective of the archaeological survey is to inventory all prehistoric and historic sites located within the pipeline right-of-way in order that these sites may be considered in the archaeological protection plan. Secondly, it is the objective of the survey to produce site specific information from these archaeological sites so that appropriate protection measures can be instituted.

Once located and evaluated, archaeological sites can then be considered relative to impacts expected to occur as a consequence of construction activities.

Specific archaeological sites found to be within the right-of-way will be examined in detail. Such an examination consists of shovel testing to determine the approximate rise, depth, and complexity of the site. Depending on the site, one or more 1m² test units would be excavated to determine content of the site.

Sites of value, determined on the basis of observed size, content and complexity, will be recorded and flagged, and the location measured from the staked survey line.

The collection of artifacts is not to be emphasized during the archaeological survey. Collection from sites of moderate and high value will be limited strictly to specimens which might otherwise be lost or damaged if left in place.

All work is carried out in accordance with permit requirements issued by the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Yukon.

2.2 Archaeological Testing

The testing portion of this year's program is undertaken to precisely delimit the volume of archaeological materials contained within the assessed archaeological sites. More specifically, this portion of the program is designed to determine the number, need and proper placement of sample units required to record representative samples of materials present, and to carry out an appropriate level of mitigative study according to the above data.

During the assessment phase of the alignment survey it was determined that several prehistoric sites appear to be of sufficient scientific value to require mitigation prior to construction.

The available mitigative strategies fall into three groups including construction restrictions, avoidance and mitigative testing. Although sufficient data was recovered to indicate the need for further testing from the survey information bearing on a number of assessment categories was limited by the small size of the assessment sample. Where construction restrictions or avoidance is not possible, the objective of this year's testing is to acquire a sufficient sample to obtain a reasonably good cross-section of materials present.

Should the acquired data suggest that a particular site is representative of a seasonal activity, a cultural historical period, or bears on a particular problem in southern Yukon history, then the objective of further mitigative studies would be to construct a statistically meaningful representative sample of the materials and site structure.

3.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3.1 Archaeological Survey

The archaeological survey portion of this year's program is being carried out by Lifeways of Canada Ltd. of Calgary, Alberta.

3.2 Archaeological Testing

The archaeological testing portion of this year's program is being carried out by Lifeways of Canada Ltd. of Calgary, Alberta.

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